

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-32 were pending. Claims 7, 10, 12, 13, and 24-30 were cancelled from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11, 14-23, and 31-32 were rejected. In this response, claims 1 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6, 8, 11, 14-23, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Grassl et al. (US Patent 6,659,012). In view of the foregoing amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed include limitations that are not disclosed by Grassl.

Specifically, for example, claim 1 includes a support body having multiple chambers and each chamber includes multiple apertures for connecting a central channel of the support body for communicating products of a gaseous expansion of the propellant from the chamber into the central channel, as shown in Figs. 1-2 of the present application. It is respectfully submitted that these limitations are absent from Grassl.

As shown in Fig. 3 of Grassl, each of the gas compartments 25a-25d includes only one lateral bore (e.g., 30a-30d). There is no disclosure or suggestion within Grassl for multiple apertures for each chamber. Therefore, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Grassl.

Similarly, independent claim 17 includes limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, for reasons similar to those set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is not anticipated by Grassl. Given the rest of the claims depend from one of the above independent claims, it is respectfully submitted that the rest of the claims are not anticipated by Grassl.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grassl et al. in view of Lynn (US Patent 3,815,271). Claims 1-6, 11, 14-23, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Dwyer (US Patent 6,138,395) in view of Meyer et al. (US Patent 2,866,412).

It is respectfully submitted that none of Lynn, O'Dwyer, and Meyer, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests the limitations set forth above. Therefore, for reasons similar to those set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as claimed is patentable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call/email the undersigned attorney.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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